

TEMPE WORKS CELEBRATES FIRST YEAR

A local project that is working on effects of Welfare Reform is the TEMPE WORKS collaboration which provides job readiness and employment support help hard-to-employ Tempeans become successfully employed, improve their current employment situation and be on their way to sustainable self-sufficiency. At the November 30, 1999 meeting of the TEMPE WORKS Workforce Development Committee, Chairperson **Kate Hanley** recognized the accomplishments of participants during the first project year with Certificates of Appreciation from **Mayor Neil Giuliano**. Receiving certificates were TEMPE WORKS Model Employers **Corrine Boettcher and Vinnie Mirizio, Adecco; Vicky Flax and Veronica Ingram, VOLT Services; Maggie Forbes, Sprint; Kelli Sharp, Chase BankCard Services; Kay Powers, Nesco Staffing; Kay MacDonald, Walgreen's Health Care; Jon O'Connor, City of Tempe; and Lisa Savage and Vicki Fox, Express Scripts.** TEMPE WORKS Primary Partners and Associated Organizations were also recognized: **Karrie Kleinert, Tempe Community Impact Foundation/Tempe Chamber of Commerce; Allen Carlson, TEMPE WORKS Coordinator and Deborah Kahan and Dana King, Tempe Community Action Agency; Steve Wise, Tempe Community Council; Michele Bush, Gateway Community College; Karen Pierce, City of Tempe Family Self Sufficiency Project; and Karin Bishop, Valley of the Sun United Way.**

TEMPE WORKS PROGRESS TO-DATE – Following are some figures on TEMPE WORKS progress through September 1999.

Total applicants	48
Hired	14
Working	12
Inactive or closed	11
Seeking work	25

- 100% of program participants are below 150% of federal poverty level
- 81% unemployed at time of application
- 23% were participants in state Welfare Reform program (receiving cash payments or seeking employment)
- Average monthly income at intake is \$534
- Average hourly wage upon placement \$8.21 per hour or \$1,423 per month

INDIVIDUAL STORIES:

- ◆ “E” is a single female adult who was working for minimum wage. She was placed with a TEMPE WORKS Model Employer in a customer service position paying \$9.00 per hour with four weeks job training. TEMPE WORKS provided financial assistance to purchase new glasses and help with rent and utilities. The help with rent allowed her to pay for needed car repairs so she could get to work.
- ◆ “N” is a single mother who was unemployed and has limited work skills, a sporadic work history and no transportation. She was provided a bus pass and received financial help for an eye exam and glasses. She was placed with a Model Employer in an entry-level position for \$7.00 per hour and benefits. The glasses enable her to read her computer screen at the job.
- ◆ “H” is a single mother who was unemployed and with limited work skills. She was provided rent assistance which prevented eviction. She was also provided a scholarship to attend a 6-credit class at a local community college that focuses on empowerment, career exploration, job and computer skills. She obtained employment earning \$10.00 per hour.